

## Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W  
----- 064380

O 151915 Z MAR 73

FM MEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8396

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T PARIS 6510

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MARR, VN

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIET NAM

REF: A. STATE 047702 B. LONDON 3036

1. ON MARCH 15 POLCOUNS MADE DEMARCHE, DRAWING  
ON ARGUMENTS REFTEL A, TO QUAI DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR  
ARNAUD.

2. IN REPLY ARNAUD RAN THROUGH PREDICTABLE FRENCH LITANY  
IN WHICH HE STRESSED FOLLOWING POINTS. DIPLOMATIC  
RECOGNITION DOES NOT IMPLY NECESSARILY APPROVAL OF  
PARTICULAR ACTIONS OR POLICIES OF COUNTRY CONCERNED.  
SOME VIOLATIONS OF VIETNAM AGREEMENT ARE BOUND TO  
OCCUR AND IF FRANCE WERE TO AWAIT IDEAL NORTH VIETNAMESE  
PERFORMANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE AGREEMENT, IT WOULD BE  
A LONG TIME BEFORE FULL RELATIONS WERE RESTORED WITH  
HANOI. IF FRANCE IS TO BE EFFECTIVE IN CAUTIONING  
RESTRAINT AND RESPECT FOR VIETNAM AGREEMENT, IT IS  
IMPORTANT TO HAVE A SENIOR FRENCH OFFICIAL ( I. E. AN  
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AMBASSADOR) WHO CAN HAVE EASY ACCESS TO SENIOR DRV OFFICIALS. OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ITALY AND BENELUX, WILL VERY RAPIDLY HAVE AMBASSADORS IN HANOI, AND FRANCE CANNOT BE LAST TO DO SO. GOF HAS GONE VERY FAR IN NEGOTIATING RAISING ITS HANOI REPRESENTATION TO AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL AND IT THEREFORE VERY DIFFICULT TO " REVERSE" THIS PROCESS.

3. RE ARNAUD FIRST POINT, POL COUNS SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH " FRENCH DOCTRINE" ON RECOGNITION QUESTION. HOWEVER, GDR AND OTHER ANALOGIES DRAWN BY ARNAUD ARE TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE IN THIS INSTANCE. WE ARE DEALING HERE WITH THE AFTERMATH OF A BLOODY AND DIFFICULT WAR WHICH HAD ABSORBED COUNTLESS AMERICAN LIVES AND MATERIAL RESOURCES. U. S. INTERESTS IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PEACE ARE CLEAR. IN VIEW OF FRANCE' S IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT' S SIGNATURE OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND CONSIDERABLE RESIDUAL FRENCH INTERESTS IN INDOCHINA, FRANCE IS ALSO CLEARLY COMMITTED TO PLAYING ITS PART IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PEACE, WHICH OBVIOUSLY INCLUDES INSURING RESPECT BY NORTH VIETNAM FOR THE VIETNAM CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. AS FOR THE SECOND POINT, POL COUNS POINTED OUT THESE WERE NOT MINOR VILATIONS, CITING APPROXIMATELY 300 ARMORED VEHICLES AND 30,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE REGULAR TROOPS WHICH HAD MOVED DOWN THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL DURING LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. HE ALSO DREW ARNAUD' S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND OF THESE TROOPS HAD MOVED INTO SOUTH VIETNAM AND THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE VEHICLE TRAFFIC IN DEMILITARIZED ZONE RECENTLY. ARNAUD ASKED POL COUNS TO REPEAT THESE, FACTS, IMPLYING HIS AGREEMENT THESE MUST BE CONSIDERED SERIOUS VIOLATIONS. AS FOR FRENCH VOICE IN HANOI, POL COUNS POINTED OUT DELEGATE GENERAL ALREADY ENJOYED CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE THERE AND AMBASSADORIAL RANK WOULD NOT APPRECIABLY CHANGE HIS PRESENT EASE OF ACCESS TO SENIOR DRV OFFICIALS. POL COUNS AKNOWLEDGED OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES CONSIDERING RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIETNAM, BUT NOTED WE ARE MAKING SIMILAR DEMARCHES IN OTHER SUCH CAPITALS. FINALLY, POLCOUNS EMPHASIZED U. S. NOT ASKING FRANCE TO REVERSE ITS DECISION TO  
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MOVE TOWARDS FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT MERELY

TO " MARK TIME" UNTIL NORTH VIETNAM CEASES ITS PRESENT  
LARGE SCALE VIOLATIONS ON THE AGREEMENT. ARNAUD TOOK  
CAREFUL NOTE OF DEMARCHE AND SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY  
DISCUSS IT WITH HIS SUPERIORS.

4. IN VIEW OF APPARENT BRITISH INCLINATION NOT TO  
MOVE RAPIDLY TO FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ( REFTEL B)  
AND GROWING DESIRE OF BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS TO  
HARMONIZE DIPLOMATIC POLICIES WITHIN EC CONTEXT,  
DEPARTMENT AND LONDON MIGHT CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF  
ASKING HMG TO WEIGH IN WITH GOF. THIS WOULD HAVE  
ADDED ADVANTAGE OF ASSUAGING FRENCH FEARS OF  
BEING LAST TO RECOGNIZE. GDS  
KUBISCH

SECRET

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 MAR 1973  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** worrelsw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** A.STATE 047702 B. LONDON 3036  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** worrelsw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <23-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971210  
**Subject:** RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIET NAM  
**TAGS:** MARR, PFOR, VN, NATO  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
SS INFO BONN  
BRUSSELS  
LONDON  
MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

